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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3622	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action

Application No.	Applicant(s)
09/520,798	Rothkopf
Examiner	**Art Unit**
John Young	3622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED *Oct 9, 2002* FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid the abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

THE PERIOD FOR REPLY [check only a) or b)]

a) ☐ The period for reply expires _____ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.

b) ☒ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection. ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. ☐ A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.

2. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:

(a) ☐ they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);

(b) ☐ they raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);

(c) ☐ they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or

(d) ☐ they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____

_____

3. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s):

_____

_____

4. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).

5. ☒ The a) ☐ affidavit, b) ☐ exhibit, or c) ☒ request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:
Applicant's arguments are not persuasive because they amount to a general allegation of that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the claim language distinguishes over the prior art.

6. ☐ The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.

7. ☐ For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) ☐ will not be entered or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____

Claim(s) objected to: _____

Claim(s) rejected: _____

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____

8. ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is a) ☐ approved or b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

9. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ .

10. ☐ Other:

ADVISORY ACTION (Paper 10)

FINAL REJECTION MAINTAINED

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

1. Claims 1-13, 15-21 & 23-25 are pending.

DRAWINGS

2. This application has been filed with drawings that are considered informal; however, said drawings are acceptable for examination and publication purposes. The review process for drawings that are included with applications on filing has been modified in view of the new requirement to publish applications at eighteen months after the filing date of applications, or any priority date claimed under 35 U.S.C. §§119, 120, 121, or 365.

CLAIM REJECTION—35 U.S.C. 112 ¶1 (NEW MATTER)

3. **Rejections Withdrawn.**

CLAIM REJECTIONS —35 U.S.C. §103(a)

4. **Rejections Maintained.**

35 U.S.C. §103(a) REJECTIONS

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

5. Independent claims 1, 10 & 19 and dependent claims 2-9, 11-13, 15-18 & 20-21 & 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Leason et al. 6,251,017 (6/26/2001) [US f/d: 4/21/1999] (herein referred to as "Leason") in view of Reed et al. 5,862,325 (1/19/1999) (herein referred to as "Reed").

As per claim 1, Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) shows elements that suggest "An electronic commerce apparatus for offering a promotional award to a visitor of an electronic commerce site, comprising: a connection to a distributed communication network; at least one promotional awards storage area, including a customer identifier storage and an award amount storage; and an awards rule storage; wherein said visitor is granted a promotional award upon visiting said electronic commerce site, said promotional award amount being controlled by an awards rule contained in said awards rule storage, and said promotional award amount being stored in said promotional awards storage area."

Leason lacks an explicit recitation of all of the elements and limitations of claim 1, even though Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) suggests same. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Leason (the

ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35): *"The present invention is an improvement over conventional promotional games and lotteries in that it provides . . . an incentive to visit a designated [Internet] site or service. . . . The customer is rewarded for visiting the designated [Internet] site(s) with a benefit that can be redeemed. . . .* [or] *awarded with a number of e-points. . . . The e-points are exchangeable for limited access to predetermined sites or services on the [Internet]. . . . players validate their e-point awards or register their validation codes. . . . at the time of e-point redemption. . . ."* would have been selected in accordance with the elements and limitations of claim 1 because such selection would have provided *"an incentive to visit a designated [Internet] site or service. . . . The customer is rewarded for visiting the designated [Internet] site(s) with a benefit that can be redeemed. . . .* [or] *awarded with a number of e-points. . . ."* (See Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35)).

Leason lacks an explicit recitation of:

unique identification information for each visitor to said site, and a visitor parameter storage that contains information pertaining to prior visits to said site by visitors identified in said customer identifier storage; and an awards rule storage that stores rules for crediting awards to visitors of said site according to information stored in said visitor parameter storage. . . . retrieving visitor

parameter information from said visitor parameter storage corresponding to customer identification information stored in said customer identifier storage in response to visitor identification information provided to said apparatus upon visitor access to said site, and applying retrieved visitor parameter information to award crediting rules retrieved from said awards rule storage.

Reed (col. 6, ll. 48-67; col. 7, ll. 1-10; col. 78, ll. 25-67; col. 82, ll. 36; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; FIG. 3; FIG. 7; FIG. 11; FIG. 15; FIG. 20; FIG. 34A; and FIG. 35) in view of Leason shows elements that suggest:

unique identification information for each visitor to said site, and a visitor parameter storage that contains information pertaining to prior visits to said site by visitors identified in said customer identifier storage; and an awards rule storage that stores rules for crediting awards to visitors of said site according to information stored in said visitor parameter storage. . . . retrieving visitor parameter information from said visitor parameter storage corresponding to customer identification information stored in said customer identifier storage in response to visitor identification information provided to said apparatus upon visitor access to said

site, and applying retrieved visitor parameter information to award crediting rules retrieved from said awards rule storage.

Reed proposes parameter storage modifications that would have applied to the lottery reward system of Leason. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the disclosure of Reed with the teachings of Leason because such combination would have provided means *"to automate control of underlying communication operations. . . ."* (see Reed (col. 9, ll. 30-33)), and because such combination would have provided means *"for encouraging a customer to go online and visit one or more designated [I]nternet sites. . . ."* (see Leason (col. 2, ll. 30-33)), and such selection would have provided "*a method in which rewards are distributed to players with a code that permits them to validate the reward online, and if the reward is in the form of access to otherwise restricted [Internet] sites or services, to redeem the reward online."* (See Leason (col. 2, ll. 1-6)).

As per claim 2, Leason in view of Reed shows the system of claim 1.

Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) shows elements that suggest the elements and limitations of claim 2.

Leason lacks an explicit recitation of "wherein said visitor parameter storage comprises a number of previous visits storage that stores a number corresponding to the

total number of visits to said site by a particular visitor, and wherein said awards rule storage stores an awards rule that determines a specific promotional award based on a number of previous visits to said site by a visitor as stored in said number of previous visits storage. . . ." even though Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) suggests same.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) would have been selected in accordance with "wherein said visitor parameter storage comprises a number of previous visits storage that stores a number corresponding to the total number of visits to said site by a particular visitor, and wherein said awards rule storage stores an awards rule that determines a specific promotional award based on a number of previous visits to said site by a visitor as stored in said number of previous visits storage. . . ." because such selection would have provided means *"to automate control of underlying communication operations. . . ."* (see Reed (col. 9, ll. 30-33)), and because such combination would have provided means *"for encouraging a customer to go online and visit one or more designated [I]nternet sites. . . ."* (see Leason (col. 2, ll. 30-33)), and such selection would have provided "*a method in which rewards are distributed to players with a code that permits them to validate the reward online, and if the reward is in the form of access to otherwise restricted [Internet] sites or services, to redeem the reward online.*" (See Leason (col. 2, ll. 1-6)).

As per claim 3, Leason in view of Reed shows the system of claim 1.

Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) in view of Reed (col. 6, ll. 48-67; col. 7, ll. 1-10; col. 78, ll. 25-67; col. 82, ll. 36; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; FIG. 3; FIG. 7; FIG. 11; FIG. 15; FIG. 20; FIG. 34A; and FIG. 35) shows elements that suggest the elements and limitations of claim 3.

Leason lacks an explicit recitation of "wherein said visitor parameter storage comprises an award time storage that stores a time of a last award to a particular visitor, and wherein said awards rule storage stores an awards rule that determines a specific promotional award based on whether a predetermined time period has elapsed since said last award. . . ." even though Leason in view of Reed suggests same.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) would have been selected in accordance with "wherein said visitor parameter storage comprises an award time storage that stores a time of a last award to a particular visitor, and wherein said awards rule storage stores an awards rule that determines a specific promotional award based on whether a predetermined time period has elapsed since said last award. . . ." because such selection would have provided means *"to automate control of underlying communication operations. . . ."* (see Reed (col. 9, ll. 30-33)), and because such combination would have provided means *"for encouraging a customer to go online and visit one or more*

designated [I]nternet sites. . . ." (see Leason (col. 2, ll. 30-33)), and such selection would have provided "*a method in which rewards are distributed to players with a code that permits them to validate the reward online, and if the reward is in the form of access to otherwise restricted [Internet] sites or services, to redeem the reward online.*" (See Leason (col. 2, ll. 1-6)).

As per claim 4, Leason in view of Reed shows the system of claim 1.

Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) in view of Reed (col. 6, ll. 48-67; col. 7, ll. 1-10; col. 78, ll. 25-67; col. 82, ll. 36; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; FIG. 3; FIG. 7; FIG. 11; FIG. 15; FIG. 20; FIG. 34A; and FIG. 35) shows elements that suggest the elements and limitations of claim 4.

Leason lacks an explicit recitation of "wherein said visitor parameter storage comprises an award amount storage that stores a cumulative total value of awards credited to a particular visitor, and wherein said awards rule storage stores an awards rule that determines a specific promotional award based on the cumulative total award value stored in said award amount storage. . . ." even though Leason in view of Reed suggests same.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) would have been selected in accordance with "wherein said visitor parameter storage comprises an award amount

storage that stores a cumulative total value of awards credited to a particular visitor, and wherein said awards rule storage stores an awards rule that determines a specific promotional award based on the cumulative total award value stored in said award amount storage. . . ." because such selection would have provided means *"to automate control of underlying communication operations. . . ."* (see Reed (col. 9, ll. 30-33)), and because such combination would have provided means *"for encouraging a customer to go online and visit one or more designated [I]nternet sites. . . ."* (see Leason (col. 2, ll. 30-33)), and such selection would have provided "*a method in which rewards are distributed to players with a code that permits them to validate the reward online, and if the reward is in the form of access to otherwise restricted [Internet] sites or services, to redeem the reward online.*" (See Leason (col. 2, ll. 1-6)).

As per claim 5, Leason in view of Reed shows the system of claim 4.

Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) in view of Reed (col. 6, ll. 48-67; col. 7, ll. 1-10; col. 78, ll. 25-67; col. 82, ll. 36; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; FIG. 3; FIG. 7; FIG. 11; FIG. 15; FIG. 20; FIG. 34A; and FIG. 35) shows elements that suggest the elements and limitations of claim 5.

Leason lacks an explicit recitation of "wherein said award amount rule contains a predetermined promotional award limit. . . ." even though Leason in view of Reed suggests same.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) would have been selected in accordance with "wherein said award amount rule contains a predetermined promotional award limit. . . ." because such selection would have provided means *"to automate control of underlying communication operations. . . ."* (see Reed (col. 9, ll. 30-33)), and because such combination would have provided means *"for encouraging a customer to go online and visit one or more designated [I]nternet sites. . . ."* (see Leason (col. 2, ll. 30-33)), and such selection would have provided "*a method in which rewards are distributed to players with a code that permits them to validate the reward online, and if the reward is in the form of access to otherwise restricted [Internet] sites or services, to redeem the reward online.*" (See Leason (col. 2, ll. 1-6)).

As per claim 6, Leason in view of Reed shows the system of claim 5.

Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) in view of Reed (col. 6, ll. 48-67; col. 7, ll. 1-10; col. 78, ll. 25-67; col. 82, ll. 36; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; FIG. 3; FIG. 7; FIG. 11; FIG. 15; FIG. 20; FIG. 34A; and FIG. 35) shows elements that suggest the elements and limitations of claim 6.

Leason lacks an explicit recitation of "wherein said award limit is reset to zero when said visitor makes a purchase form said site. . . ." even though Leason in view of

Reed suggests same.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) would have been selected in accordance with "wherein said award limit is reset to zero when said visitor makes a purchase form said site. . . ." because such selection would have provided means *"to automate control of underlying communication operations. . . ."* (see Reed (col. 9, ll. 30-33)), and because such combination would have provided means *"for encouraging a customer to go online and visit one or more designated [I]nternet sites. . . ."* (see Leason (col. 2, ll. 30-33)), and such selection would have provided "*a method in which rewards are distributed to players with a code that permits them to validate the reward online, and if the reward is in the form of access to otherwise restricted [Internet] sites or services, to redeem the reward online.*" (See Leason (col. 2, ll. 1-6)).

As per claim 7, Leason in view of Reed shows the system of claim 2.

Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) in view of Reed (col. 6, ll. 48-67; col. 7, ll. 1-10; col. 78, ll. 25-67; col. 82, ll. 36; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; FIG. 3; FIG. 7; FIG. 11; FIG. 15; FIG. 20; FIG. 34A; and FIG. 35) shows elements that suggest the elements and limitations of claim 7.

Leason lacks an explicit recitation of "wherein said promotional award according

to said awards rule increases with successive visits by said visitor. . . ." even though Leason in view of Reed suggests same.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) would have been selected in accordance with "wherein said promotional award according to said awards rule increases with successive visits by said visitor. . . ." because such selection would have provided means *"to automate control of underlying communication operations. . . ."* (see Reed (col. 9, ll. 30-33)), and because such combination would have provided means *"for encouraging a customer to go online and visit one or more designated [I]nternet sites. . . ."* (see Leason (col. 2, ll. 30-33)), and such selection would have provided "*a method in which rewards are distributed to players with a code that permits them to validate the reward online, and if the reward is in the form of access to otherwise restricted [Internet] sites or services, to redeem the reward online.*" (See Leason (col. 2, ll. 1-6)).

As per claim 8, Leason in view of Reed shows the system of claim 1.

Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) in view of Reed (col. 6, ll. 48-67; col. 7, ll. 1-10; col. 78, ll. 25-67; col. 82, ll. 36; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; FIG. 3; FIG. 7; FIG. 11; FIG. 15; FIG. 20; FIG. 34A; and FIG. 35) shows elements that suggest the elements and limitations of

claim 8.

Leason lacks an explicit recitation of "wherein said promotion award is credited to a purchase price of a purchase by said customer. . . ."even though Leason in view of Reed suggests same.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) in view of Reed (col. 6, ll. 48-67; col. 7, ll. 1-10; col. 78, ll. 25-67; col. 82, ll. 36; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; FIG. 3; FIG. 7; FIG. 11; FIG. 15; FIG. 20; FIG. 34A; and FIG. 35) would have been selected in accordance with "wherein said promotion award is credited to a purchase price of a purchase by said customer. . . ." because such selection would have provided means *"to automate control of underlying communication operations. . . ."* (see Reed (col. 9, ll. 30-33)), and because such combination would have provided means *"for encouraging a customer to go online and visit one or more designated [I]nternet sites. . . ."* (see Leason (col. 2, ll. 30-33)), and such selection would have provided "*a method in which rewards are distributed to players with a code that permits them to validate the reward online, and if the reward is in the form of access to otherwise restricted [Internet] sites or services, to redeem the reward online."* (See Leason (col. 2, ll. 1-6)).

As per claim 9, Leason in view of Reed shows the system of claim 1.

Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll.

30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) in view of Reed (col. 6, ll. 48-67; col. 7, ll. 1-10; col. 78, ll. 25-67; col. 82, ll. 36; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; FIG. 3; FIG. 7; FIG. 11; FIG. 15; FIG. 20; FIG. 34A; and FIG. 35) shows elements that suggest the elements and limitations of claim 9.

Leason lacks an explicit recitation of "wherein said apparatus is connected through said connection to the Internet. . . ."even though Leason in view of Reed suggests same.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) would have been selected in accordance with "wherein said apparatus is connected through said connection to the Internet. . . ." because such selection would have provided means *"to automate control of underlying communication operations. . . ."* (see Reed (col. 9, ll. 30-33)), and because such combination would have provided means *"for encouraging a customer to go online and visit one or more designated [I]nternet sites. . . ."* (see Leason (col. 2, ll. 30-33)), and such selection would have provided "*a method in which rewards are distributed to players with a code that permits them to validate the reward online, and if the reward is in the form of access to otherwise restricted [Internet] sites or services, to redeem the reward online."* (See Leason (col. 2, ll. 1-6)).

As per claim 10, Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll.

1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) shows elements that suggest "A method for offering a promotional award to a visitor to an electronic commerce site, comprising the steps of: detecting a site visit by a visitor and keeping track of a number of visits to said site and a number of purchases form said site by individually identified visitors; and; granting a promotional award to said visitor in accordance with award rules pertaining to the number of visits to said site by said visitor and purchases form said site by said visitor; wherein said visitor is motivated to make multiple site visits and a purchase as a result of said promotional award."

Leason lacks an explicit recitation of all of the elements and limitations of claim 10, even though Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) suggests same. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35): *"The present invention is an improvement over conventional promotional games and lotteries in that it provides . . . an incentive to visit a designated [Internet] site or service. . . . The customer is rewarded for visiting the designated [Internet] site(s) with a benefit that can be redeemed. . . .* [or] *awarded with a number of e-points. . . . The e-points are exchangeable for limited access to predetermined sites or services on the [Internet]. . . . players validate their e-point awards or register their validation codes. . . . at the time of e-point redemption."* would have been selected in accordance with the elements and limitations of claim 10 because such selection would have provided

"an incentive to visit a designated [Internet] site or service. . . . The customer is rewarded for visiting the designated [Internet] site(s) with a benefit that can be redeemed. . . . [or] *awarded with a number of e-points. . . ."* (see Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35)), and because such selection would have provided means *"for encouraging a customer to go online and visit one or more designated [I]nternet sites. . . ."* (see Leason (col. 2, ll. 30-33)), and such selection would have provided "*a method in which rewards are distributed to players with a code that permits them to validate the reward online, and if the reward is in the form of access to otherwise restricted [Internet] sites or services, to redeem the reward online."* (See Leason (col. 2, ll. 1-6)).

As per claim 11, Leason shows the system of claim 10.

Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) shows elements that suggest the elements and limitations of claim 11.

Leason lacks an explicit recitation of "wherein said promotional award increases with each site visit by said visitor. . . ." even though Leason suggests same.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) would have been selected in accordance with "wherein said promotional award increases with each site visit by said

visitor. . . ." because such selection would have provided means *"for encouraging a customer to go online and visit one or more designated [I]nternet sites. . . ."* (see Leason (col. 2, ll. 30-33)), and such selection would have provided "*a method in which rewards are distributed to players with a code that permits them to validate the reward online, and if the reward is in the form of access to otherwise restricted [Internet] sites or services, to redeem the reward online."* (See Leason (col. 2, ll. 1-6)).

As per claim 12, Leason shows the system of claim 10.

Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) shows elements that suggest the elements and limitations of claim 12.

Leason lacks an explicit recitation of "said promotional award increases incrementally with each site visit by said visitor. . . ." even though Leason suggests same.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) would have been selected in accordance with "said promotional award increases incrementally with each site visit by said visitor. . . ." because such selection would have provided means *"for encouraging a customer to go online and visit one or more designated [I]nternet sites. . . ."* (see Leason (col. 2, ll. 30-33)), and such selection would have provided "*a method in which rewards are distributed to players with a code that permits them to validate the reward online,*

and if the reward is in the form of access to otherwise restricted [Internet] sites or services, to redeem the reward online." (See Leason (col. 2, ll. 1-6)).

As per claim 13, Leason shows the system of claim 10.

Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) shows elements that suggest the elements and limitations of claim 13.

Leason lacks an explicit recitation of "said promotional award is cumulative over successive site visits by said visitor. . . ." even though Leason suggests same.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) would have been selected in accordance with "said promotional award is cumulative over successive site visits by said visitor. . . ." because such selection would have provided means *"for encouraging a customer to go online and visit one or more designated [I]nternet sites. . . ."* (see Leason (col. 2, ll. 30-33)), and such selection would have provided "*a method in which rewards are distributed to players with a code that permits them to validate the reward online, and if the reward is in the form of access to otherwise restricted [Internet] sites or services, to redeem the reward online."* (See Leason (col. 2, ll. 1-6)).

As per claim 15, Leason shows the system of claim 10.

Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) shows elements that suggest the elements and limitations of claim 15.

Leason lacks an explicit recitation of "said promotional award is granted to said visitor if said visitor has not exceeded a predetermined promotional award limit. . . ." even though Leason suggests same.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) would have been selected in accordance with "said promotional award is granted to said visitor if said visitor has not exceeded a predetermined promotional award limit. . . ." because such selection would have provided means *"for encouraging a customer to go online and visit one or more designated [I]nternet sites. . . ."* (see Leason (col. 2, ll. 30-33)), and such selection would have provided "*a method in which rewards are distributed to players with a code that permits them to validate the reward online, and if the reward is in the form of access to otherwise restricted [Internet] sites or services, to redeem the reward online."* (See Leason (col. 2, ll. 1-6)).

As per claim 16, Leason shows the system of claim 10.

Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) shows elements that suggest the elements and limitations of

claim 16.

Leason lacks an explicit recitation of "said promotional award is credited to a purchase price of a purchase by said visitor. . . ." even though Leason suggests same.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) would have been selected in accordance with "said promotional award is credited to a purchase price of a purchase by said visitor. . . ." because such selection would have provided means *"for encouraging a customer to go online and visit one or more designated [I]nternet sites. . . ."* (see Leason (col. 2, ll. 30-33)), and such selection would have provided "*a method in which rewards are distributed to players with a code that permits them to validate the reward online, and if the reward is in the form of access to otherwise restricted [Internet] sites or services, to redeem the reward online.*" (See Leason (col. 2, ll. 1-6)).

As per claim 17, Leason shows the system of claim 10.

Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) shows elements that suggest the elements and limitations of claim 17.

Leason lacks an explicit recitation of "said visitor must affirmatively select the promotional award. . . ." even though Leason suggests same.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention that the disclosure of Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) would have been selected in accordance with "said visitor must affirmatively select the promotional award. . . ." because such selection would have provided means *"for encouraging a customer to go online and visit one or more designated [I]nternet sites. . . ."* (see Leason (col. 2, ll. 30-33)), and such selection would have provided "*a method in which rewards are distributed to players with a code that permits them to validate the reward online, and if the reward is in the form of access to otherwise restricted [Internet] sites or services, to redeem the reward online."* (See Leason (col. 2, ll. 1-6)).

As per claim 18, Leason shows the system of claim 10.

Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) shows elements that suggest the elements and limitations of claim 18.

Leason lacks an explicit recitation of "said electronic commerce site is accessed via the Internet. . . ." even though Leason suggests same.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) would have been selected in accordance with "said electronic commerce site is accessed via the Internet. . . ." because such selection would have provided means *"for encouraging a customer to go online and*

visit one or more designated [I]nternet sites. . . ." (see Leason (col. 2, ll. 30-33)), and such selection would have provided "*a method in which rewards are distributed to players with a code that permits them to validate the reward online, and if the reward is in the form of access to otherwise restricted [Internet] sites or services, to redeem the reward online.*" (See Leason (col. 2, ll. 1-6)).

As per claim 19, Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) shows elements that suggest "A method for offering a promotional award to a visitor of an electronic commerce site, comprising the steps of: detecting a site visit by a visitor and storing information identifying a visitor and identifying propr promotional awards credited to said visitor; determining whether said visitor has already exceeded a predetermined promotional award limit; granting a promotional award to said visitor if said visitor has not exceeded said predetermined promotional award limit and updating the value of said prior credited promotional awards associated with visitor identification information wherein said visitor is motivated to make multiple site visits and a purchase as a result of said promotional award."

Leason lacks an explicit recitation of all of the elements and limitations of claim 19, even though Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) suggests same. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll.

27-35): *"The present invention is an improvement over conventional promotional games and lotteries in that it provides . . . an incentive to visit a designated [Internet] site or service. . . . The customer is rewarded for visiting the designated [Internet] site(s) with a benefit that can be redeemed. . . .* [or] *awarded with a number of e-points. . . . The e-points are exchangeable for limited access to predetermined sites or services on the [Internet]. . . . players validate their e-point awards or register their validation codes. . . . at the time of e-point redemption."* would have been selected in accordance with the elements and limitations of claim 19 because such selection would have provided *"an incentive to visit a designated [Internet] site or service. . . . The customer is rewarded for visiting the designated [Internet] site(s) with a benefit that can be redeemed. . . .* [or] *awarded with a number of e-points. . . ."* (See Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35)).

As per claim 20, Leason shows the system of claim 19.

Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) shows elements that suggest the elements and limitations of claim 20.

Leason lacks an explicit recitation of "said promotional award increases with each site visit by said visitor. . . ." even though Leason suggests same.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention that the disclosure of Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) would have been selected in accordance with "said promotional award increases with each site visit by said visitor. . . ." because such selection would have provided means *"for encouraging a customer to go online and visit one or more designated [I]nternet sites. . . ."* (see Leason (col. 2, ll. 30-33)), and such selection would have provided "*a method in which rewards are distributed to players with a code that permits them to validate the reward online, and if the reward is in the form of access to otherwise restricted [Internet] sites or services, to redeem the reward online."* (See Leason (col. 2, ll. 1-6)).

As per claim 21, Leason shows the system of claim 19.

Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) shows elements that suggest the elements and limitations of claim 21.

Leason lacks an explicit recitation of "said promotional award increases incrementally with each site visit by said visitor. . . ." even though Leason suggests same.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) would have been selected in accordance with "said promotional award increases incrementally with each site visit by said visitor. . . ." because such selection would have provided means *"for encouraging a*

customer to go online and visit one or more designated [I]nternet sites. . . ." (see Leason (col. 2, ll. 30-33)), and such selection would have provided "*a method in which rewards are distributed to players with a code that permits them to validate the reward online, and if the reward is in the form of access to otherwise restricted [Internet] sites or services, to redeem the reward online.*" (See Leason (col. 2, ll. 1-6)).

As per claim 23, Leason shows the system of claim 19.

Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) shows elements that suggest the elements and limitations of claim 23.

Leason lacks an explicit recitation of "said visitor must affirmatively select the promotional award. . . ." even though Leason suggests same.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) would have been selected in accordance with "said visitor must affirmatively select the promotional award. . . ." because such selection would have provided means "*for encouraging a customer to go online and visit one or more designated [I]nternet sites. . . .*" (see Leason (col. 2, ll. 30-33)), and such selection would have provided "*a method in which rewards are distributed to players with a code that permits them to validate the reward online, and if the reward is in the form of access to otherwise restricted [Internet] sites or services, to redeem the*

reward online." (See Leason (col. 2, ll. 1-6)).

As per claim 24, Leason shows the system of claim 19.

Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) shows elements that suggest the elements and limitations of claim 24.

Leason lacks an explicit recitation of "said promotional award is credited to a purchase price if said visitor makes a purchase. . . ." even though Leason suggests same.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) would have been selected in accordance with "said promotional award is credited to a purchase price if said visitor makes a purchase. . . ." because such selection would have provided means *"for encouraging a customer to go online and visit one or more designated [I]nternet sites. . . ."* (see Leason (col. 2, ll. 30-33)), and such selection would have provided "*a method in which rewards are distributed to players with a code that permits them to validate the reward online, and if the reward is in the form of access to otherwise restricted [Internet] sites or services, to redeem the reward online."* (See Leason (col. 2, ll. 1-6)).

As per claim 25, Leason shows the system of claim 19.

Leason lacks an explicit recitation of the elements and limitations of claim 25, even though Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) suggests same. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; col. 2, ll. 1-56; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) would have been selected in accordance with "said electronic commerce site is accessed via the Internet. . . ." because such Internet connection would have provided *"a method in which rewards are distributed to players with a code that permits them to validate the reward online, and if the reward is in the form of access to otherwise restricted [Internet] sites or services, to redeem the reward online. . . ."* (see Leason (col. 2, ll. 1-6)); and because such selection would have provided means *"for encouraging a customer to go online and visit one or more designated [I]nternet sites. . . ."* (see Leason (col. 2, ll. 30-33)).

RESPONSE TO ARGUMENTS

6. Applicant's response (Reconsideration, paper#8, filed 10/09/2002) concerning the obviousness rejections in the prior Office Action have been considered but are not persuasive for the following reasons:

Applicant's Response (Reconsideration, paper#8, p. 3, ll. 3-19) asserts that "Reed fails to cure . . . [the] fundamental deficiency in Leason with respect to the claimed invention. . . . Reed is completely irrelevant to the Leason system and irrelevant to the claimed invention. . . ." This is not the case.

It is well settled that a prior art reference must either be in the field of Applicant's endeavor or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the Applicant was concerned, in order to be relied upon as a basis for rejection of the claimed invention. See *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 24 USPQ2d 1443 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In the prior Office Action both Leason and Reed are reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the Applicant is concerned.

Applicant's Response (Reconsideration, paper#8, p. 3, ll. 20-30; and p. 4, ll. 1-9) asserts that the "Office action has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness with respect to the pending claims. . . . The Office action provides no . . . motivation, teaching or suggestion in proposing to combine 'the disclosures of Reed with the teachings of Leason . . . motivation to combine' . . . must be motivation as described in the prior art to overcome some stated problem, achieve some stated purpose, or make some stated improvement." This is not the case.

The prior Office Action is replete with cites to both Reed and Leason quoting motivation to combine the references; for example, in the prior Office Action rejection of independent claim 1 (supra) recites: It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the disclosure of Reed with the teachings of Leason because such combination would have provided means *"to automate control of underlying communication operations. . . ."* (see Reed (col. 9, ll. 30-33)), and because such combination would have provided means *"for encouraging a customer to*

go online and visit one or more designated [I]nternet sites. . . ." (see Leason (col. 2, ll. 30-33)), and such selection would have provided "*a method in which rewards are distributed to players with a code that permits them to validate the reward online, and if the reward is in the form of access to otherwise restricted [Internet] sites or services, to redeem the reward online.*" (See Leason (col. 2, ll. 1-6)).

It is well settled that the test for obviousness is not whether the claimed invention must be expressly suggested in any one or all of the references. Rather, the test is what the teachings of the references would have suggested in the broadest interpretation to those of ordinary skill in the art. The examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988)and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, motivation to modify the Leason reference is found in both the Leason and Reed references.

Applicant's Response (Reconsideration, paper#8, p. 4, ll. 10-25) asserts that the "Office action . . . failed to show precisely where Reed discloses any of the features of the claimed invention admittedly missing form Leason. Specifically, the Office action has not pointed out where in 'col. 6, ll. 48-67; col. 7, ll. 1-10. . . .' Reed is alleged to disclose the

relatively simple elements of providing a unique customer identification storage for each visitor to a site. . . ." etc. This is not the case; for example, Reed (col. 6, ll. 48-67; col. 7, ll. 1-10) discloses *"Collabra Share, allow users to 'subscribe' to specific databases. These users can receive an e-mail notification from a database agent monitoring the database when a new entry or a certain condition has been made. . . ."* The Examiner interprets the disclosure of allowing "*users to 'subscribe' to specific databases. These users can receive an e-mail notification. . . .*" as suggesting where "Reed discloses . . . the relatively simple elements of providing a unique customer identification storage. . . ."

Applicant's Response (Reconsideration, paper#8, p. 4, ll. 10-25) asserts that the prior Office Action provides an admission that "features of the claimed invention . . . admittedly are not disclosed in Leason." This is not the case. The prior Office Action never admits or concedes that the prior art references relied upon do not teach or suggest the elements and limitations claimed in the instant invention. Note, the prior office action in claim 1 (supra) states: "Leason lacks an explicit recitation of all of the elements and limitations of claim 1, even though Leason (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 3; FIG. 5; col. 1, ll. 5-9; col. 2, ll. 1-19; col. 2, ll. 30-55; and col. 12, ll. 27-35) suggests same." This statement is not an admission that the features of the claimed invention are not disclosed in Leason. To the contrary, the phrase "lacks explicit mention. . . ." is merely the transition phraseology to the factual inquires set forth in Graham v. John Deer Co., 383 U.S. 1, 86 S. Ct. 684, 15 L.Ed. 2nd 545 (1966), 148 USPQ 459 and the 35 USC §103(a)

Obviousness proposition that even though the Leason reference does not explicitly recite the claimed elements and limitations, the reference does in fact suggest the claimed elements and limitations of the instant invention and further more, provides evidence of prima facie obviousness in the combination of the teachings of the Leason and Reed references.

Applicant's Response (Reconsideration, paper#8, p. 4, ll. 26-28) alleges that the prior Office Action fails to "pinpoint citations precisely where the Reed reference discloses the alleged features proposed to be combined with Leason." This is not the case.

The prior Office Action is replete with cites to both Reed and Leason quoting where the Reed reference discloses features proposed to be combined with Leason.

It is well settled that the test for obviousness is not whether the claimed invention must be expressly suggested in any one or all of the references. Rather, the test is what the teachings of the references would have suggested in the broadest interpretation to those of ordinary skill in the art. The Examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988)and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). Upon review of

the prior Office Action rejections it will be clear that, the teaching, suggestion, and motivation to modify the Leason reference are found in both the Leason and Reed references.

Furthermore, Applicant's arguments amount to a general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references.

THE FINAL REJECTION IS MAINTAINED.

In the event the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the three month shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of the final action.

CONCLUSION

7. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Box AF

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

Any response to this action may be sent via facsimile to either:

(703)305-7687 (for formal communications EXPEDITED PROCEDURE) or

(703) 305-7687 (for formal communications marked AFTER-FINAL) or

(703) 746-7240 (for informal communications marked PROPOSED or DRAFT).

Hand delivered responses may be brought to:

Seventh Floor Receptionist
Crystal Park V
2451 Crystal Drive
Arlington, Virginia.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John L. Young who may be reached via telephone at (703) 305-3801. The Examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday between 8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eric Stamber, may be reached at (703) 305-8469.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

John L. Young
Patent Examiner

STEPHEN GRAVINI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

January 8, 2003